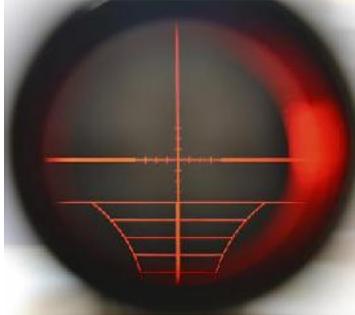




RESOURCE 8

Scenarios

Scenario 1: Government-Contracted Killings



Government-contracted killings are killings that are ordered and even carried out by a government, for political reasons. This practice may not be common, but it has occurred in the past under different regimes, both democratic and totalitarian. As is the case with all killings, government-contracted killings contravene a basic human right – the right to life.

Source: MartinaVaculikova/iStock

Examples of cases that have been discussed as being linked to government-contracted killings include:

1. the Operation 'Wrath of God' following the Munich massacre in 1972, when an Israeli team, following orders from the Prime Minister of Israel, hunted down and killed the three surviving Palestinian assassins of eleven Israeli athletes;
2. the 'shoot-to-kill' policy in Northern Ireland in the 1980s, where a number of suspects were allegedly killed deliberately by officials and soldiers without attempts to arrest them first.

Scenario 2: Indefinite Detention Without Trial



Indefinite detention means the imprisonment of an arrested person by the state without a trial. Indefinite detention violates the arrested person's human rights, as it goes against the belief that any suspect is innocent until proven guilty. Although it is not a common practice, sometimes in recent years governments have indefinitely held without trial individuals who were suspected of terrorism or treason.

Source: sakhorn38/iStock

Examples of cases that are linked to indefinite detention without trial include:

1. the British army operation 'Demetrius', which included the arrest and internment of hundreds of Irish people allegedly said to be involved with the Irish Republican Army (IRA).
2. Guantanamo Bay, an American-controlled jail in Cuba, operates as a detention centre where suspects are held for long periods of time.



Scenario 3: Global Surveillance



Source: © Hellerton



Global surveillance refers to the mass surveillance of entire populations across national borders. This is not a new concept and, apart from its political connotations, it also refers to surveillance of populations for public health reasons. Global surveillance carried out for political reasons goes against the individual right to privacy, amongst other things. In 2013 an employee of the US National Security Agency (NSA) called Edward Snowden leaked into the public domain a series of documents highlighting the global surveillance undertaken by his employers.

- Are there ever circumstances in which human rights can be suspended or annulled?
- Can we justify depriving someone of their human rights in order to protect the greater good of wider society?
- And when does such deprivation of rights end? How do you feel about this; would you be in agreement for someone to be deprived of his/her rights in some circumstances?
- Are the needs of wider society more important than the human rights of an individual?
- And who ultimately has the right to decide whether suspects' rights can be suppressed?